

PROJECT 1:

MAKING A SIMPLE "DIRECT" MOULD

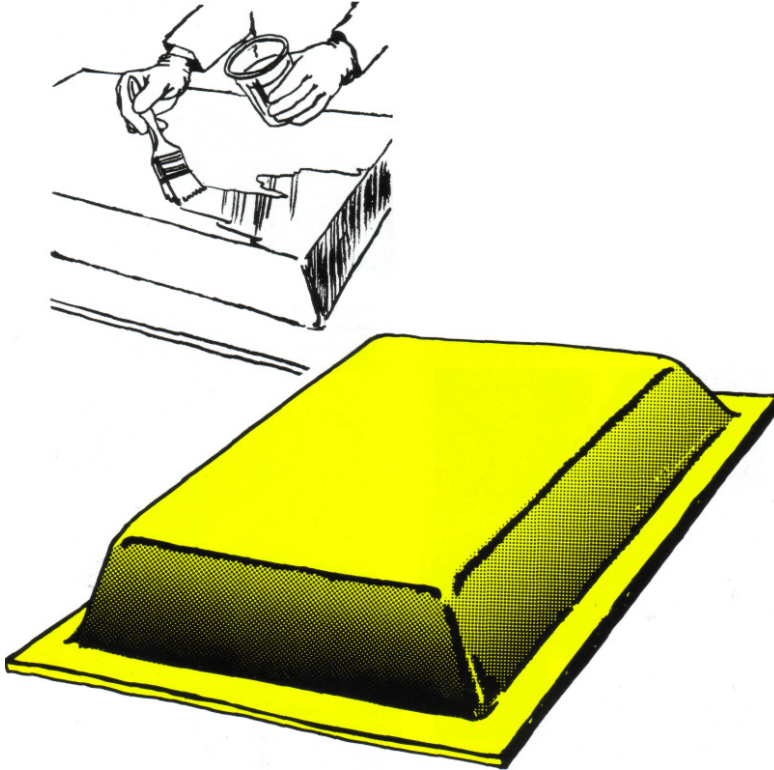
In some instances, it is possible to make a mould without the need for an original former, or "plug". A typical example is a hatch cover, a suitable mould for which is little more than a tray of appropriate dimensions. It can be easily constructed from wood, fibreboard, chipboard, hardboard, etc.

Points to remember: All corners and joints should be rounded. The sides of the mould should not be at right angles to the base - they should have a draught sufficient to enable easy removal of the moulding.

Alternatively, make the mould in sections which can be bolted together then dismantled for removal from the moulding. A very deep mould also makes it difficult to release the laminate - again, the sides of the mould should be bolted together so they can be dismantled for removal from the moulding.

A mould like this can be male (with the laminate on the outside) or female (With the laminate inside) - use a female mould when the laminate needs a smooth exterior (eg, a hatchcover) and a male mould when the finished article must have a smooth interior (eg, a shower tray).

Simply by altering the relative dimensions, this type of mould can be used for moulding seats, buoyancy chambers, lockers, etc.



Male mould for a shower tray